

Public Meeting

Monday, April 23rd 2012



Background



- Project is the result of public participation and “Bag It Boulder” petitions last summer
- October City Council study session – staff received feedback to bring options for reducing disposable checkout bag use back to Council
- Purpose of this meeting is to gather community feedback on the options



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What's the Problem?



- Staff estimates that Boulder currently uses 33.3 million checkout bags a year – 342/person/year
- Major contributor to litter pollution
- Hard to recycle
- Contamination at recycling and composting facilities



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Boulder County Recycling Facility



Boulder County Recycling Facility



Life Cycle Environmental Impacts



	Paper Bags (30% Recycled Fiber)	Polyethylene Plastic Bags
Total Energy Usage (MJ)	2,622	763
Fossil Fuel Use (kg)	23.2	14.9
Municipal Solid Waste (kg)	33.9	7.0
Greenhouse Gas Emissions (CO2 Equiv. Tons)	0.08	0.04
Fresh Water Usage (Gal)	1,004	58

Options



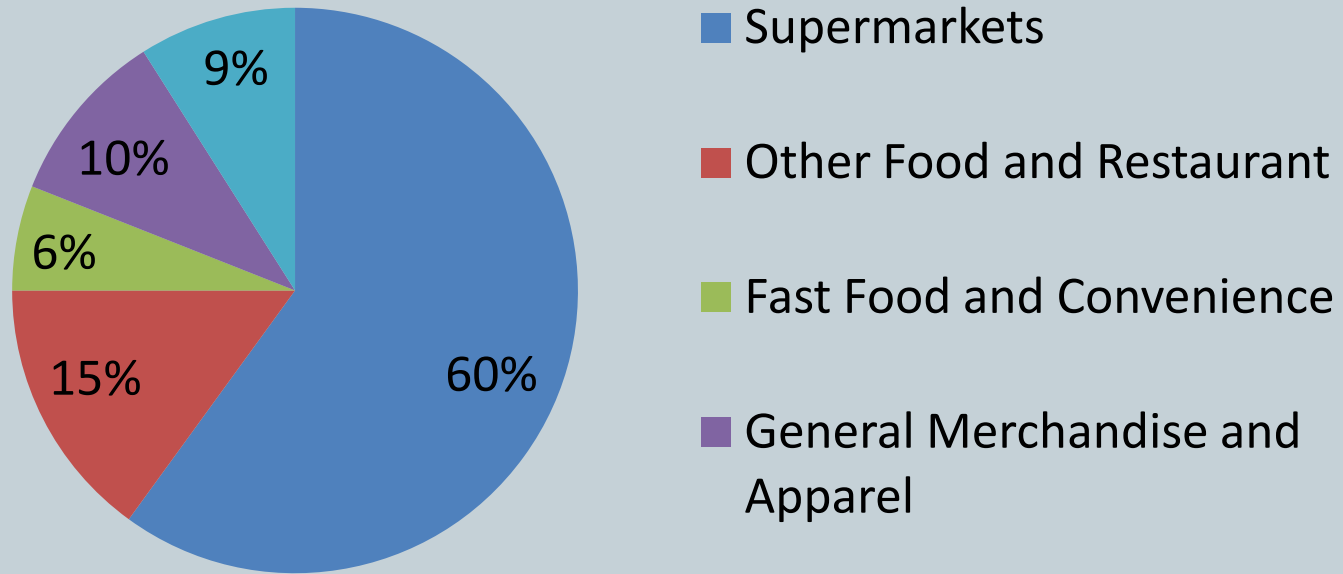
1. Fee on plastic and paper checkout bags
2. Ban on plastic bags with a fee on paper bags
3. Ban on plastic and paper bags
4. Educational campaign
5. No action



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Disposable Bag Generation by Store Type



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Scope of Possible Ordinance



- Options for who an ordinance would apply to:
 - All retail businesses
 - Retail businesses over a determined threshold
Example: Annual Taxable Sales
 - All Food Stores
 - Food Stores over a determined threshold
 - Additional option – Eating Places



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Staff Recommendation to EAB



- Fee on both plastic and paper checkout bags
- Applied to all “Food Stores” in the sales tax database (45 businesses)



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Next Steps



- **Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting**
 - Thursday, April 26th 6-8pm, Council Chambers
- **City Council meeting for direction on options**
 - Tuesday, May 15th, 6pm, Council Chambers
- **Refinement of analysis**
- **Development of possible ordinance**



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How to Get Involved



- **Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting**
 - Thursday, April 26th 6-8pm, Council Chambers
 - Public Hearing
- **City Council meeting**
 - Tuesday, May 15th, 6pm, Council Chambers
 - Public Participation
- **Survey:** www.bouldercolorado.gov/LEAD
- **Contact:** Jamie Harkins - harkinsj@bouldercolorado.gov
303.441.1846



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